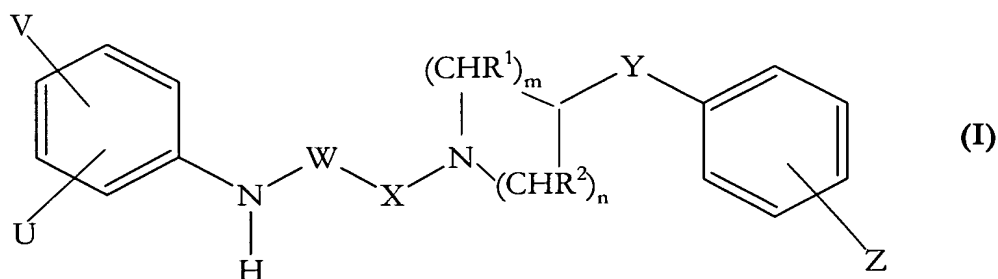


ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a compound of formula (I):



wherein: V and U are hydrogen, halogen, C₁-C₄ alkylamino, or together form a group that contains one or more heteroatoms, and that taken together with one or more:

- (a) hydrogen atoms;
- (b) carbon atoms;
- (c) -CH= groups;
- (d) -CH₂- groups; or
- (e) additional heteroatoms of the same or different type;

or any combination thereof, form a 4-7 membered homocyclic or heterocyclic ring, wherein the homocyclic or heterocyclic ring may combine with the phenyl group to form a bicyclic ring, and wherein the homocyclic or heterocyclic ring or the bicyclic ring may contain one or more oxo, thioxo, amino, mercapto, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₄ alkyl, =S or -SH groups;

W: is -CO-, -CH₂- or -CH₂-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)-;

X: is -CO-;

Y: is -O-, C₁-C₄ alkylene, C₁-C₄ alkynylene, cycloalkylene, aminocarbonyl, -NH-, -N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)-, -C₁-C₄ alkylene-N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)-, -CH₂O-, -CH(OH)- or -OCH₂-;

Z: is hydrogen, halogen, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, cyano, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl or carboxyl;

R¹ and R²: are hydrogen, or together form a C₁-C₃ bridge; and

n and m: independently are 0-3, wherein n and m cannot each be 0;

or an optical antipode, racemate or pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof. The carboxylic acid amide derivatives of formula (I) are highly effective and selective antagonists of the NMDA receptor.